

Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan
Technical Advisory Committee - Finance Subcommittee

Subject	Finance Subcommittee Meeting #2 Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework	Date	March 29, 2021
Facilitator	Elizabeth Andrews	Time	10:00am – 11:30am
Location	WebEx - https://tinyurl.com/vvras89b	Scribe	Ashley Samonisky

Invitees/Attendees			
#	Name	Organization/Role	Attended?
Finance Subcommittee Members and Staff Advisors			
1.	Elizabeth Andrews – Chair	Director, Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School	Y
2.	Peter D’Alema – Vice Chair	Director of Program Management, Virginia Resources Authority	Y
3.	Laura McKay - Staff	Program Manager, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program	Y
4.	Clyde Cristman	Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation	Y
5.	Bob Crum, Jr.	Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	N
6.	Troy Hartley	Director, Virginia Sea Grant	Y
7.	Traci Munyan	Program Administrative Manager, Department of Housing and Community Development	Y
8.	Lee Hutchinson	Resiliency Program Analyst, Department of Housing and Community Development	Y
9.	Richard Klein	Civil Works Program Manager, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District	Y
10.	Lewis Lawrence	Executive Director, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Y
11.	Curtis Smith	Deputy Director, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission	Y
12.	Stephen Moret	President & CEO, The Virginia Economic Development Partnership	Y
13.	Robbie Coates	Grants Division Director, Virginia Department of Emergency Management	Y
14.	Eric Letsinger	CEO, Quantified Ventures	N
15.	Ann Phillips	Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.) - Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection	Y
Scheduled Speakers			
16.	Russ Baxter	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	Y
17.	Mike Crocker	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality/Water Division	Y
18.	Kelly Meadows	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality/Water Division	Y
Designated Alternates			
19.	Whitney Katchmark	Alternate for Bob Crum	Y
Subcommittee Advisors			
20.	Jessica Grannis	Science Research and Best Practices Subcommittee	N
21.	Shep Moon	Science Research and Best Practices Subcommittee	N
Other Participants			
22.	Denise Nelson	The Berkley Group	Y
23.	Ben McFarlane	HRPDC	Y
24.	Natalie Snider	EDF	Y
25.	Matt Dalon	DCR	Y
26.	Cindy DiFranco	DHCD	Y
27.	Madison Teeter	Wetlands Watch	Y
28.	W Kannady		Y
29.	Wendy Howard- Cooper	DCR	Y
30.	Karen Doran	DEQ	Y

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#	Name	Organization/Role	Attended?
31.	Nick Meade	DEQ	Y
32.	Grace Tucker	EDF	Y
33.	Jason Powell		Y
Consultant Support			
34.	Brian Batten	Dewberry	Y
35.	Caroline Whitehead	Dewberry	Y
36.	Jessica Fleck	Dewberry	Y
37.	Deepa Srinivasan	Vision Planning and Consulting	Y
38.	Ashley Samonisky	Vision Planning and Consulting	Y

Agenda/Minutes		
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1.	Roll Call and Quorum Affirmation	Laura McKay took roll for the Finance Subcommittee Members and a Quorum was achieved.
2.	Welcome and Chapter 1289 Reading	<p>Elizabeth Andrews read the Introduction/FOIA Disclosure as required, and asked for motion to move forward with the meeting virtually. The motion was asked and seconded, and it was unanimously approved for the meeting to commence electronically. She mentioned that the meeting minutes should include the handouts from the meeting. She also noted that IT related questions should be sent to nick.meade@deq.virginia.gov or Phone: 814 317 3638.</p> <p>Ann Phillips provided a welcome statement and introductions to the Dewberry Team and Brian Batten of Dewberry gave an introduction statement on behalf of the Consultant Team.</p>
3.	Discussion of future Subcommittee presentations and CZM-funded Wetlands Watch Coastal Resilience Projects Database	<p>Elizabeth provided brief introductions on the presentations and speakers for today's meeting and reviewed the Finance Subcommittee Workplan for the coming months (attachment). She suggested extending the May meeting from 90 minutes to two hours to accommodate the long list of topics and speakers. She also requested anyone with ideas for upcoming speakers on these topics to please reach out to her with their suggestions. If the committee would like to cover new or specific topics, a speaker would need to be identified. Elizabeth stated the need to confirm/finalize topics and speakers for the August 2021 meeting. The proposed speakers/topics list was reviewed and Subcommittee members were asked if there were other topics they would like to cover during the August meeting. The Subcommittee will ask speakers for a PowerPoint and a bulletized summary sheet ahead of the meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does anyone have any additional topics or issues they want to discuss for the August 2021 meeting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No responses – This is taken as an agreement to have Troy Hartley and Laura McKay speak, to invite Paul Robinson from RISE as a speaker, and to perhaps invite the NFWF to provide insight on their funding/finance sources. The meeting may not have time for a foundations and charities discussion. <p>Laura McKay provided background on the new Coastal Resilience Project Database. The project began when NFWF funding came out for resilience programs. The CZM Program provided a grant to Wetlands Watch to develop a coastal projects database.</p>

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		<p>The basic structure is complete, and comments/input are welcome. The project is not public at this time. Projects are still being reviewed from the 8 Coastal Planning Districts. There are 58 different federal, state, and nonprofit funding sources listed. The database can link to the RFP and fact sheets for each funding source, and explains the types of projects, phases funded, maximum dollars allowed, cost share match requirements, dates due, contact info, etc. Laura asked Subcommittee members to review the database and provide any comments/suggestions back to her.</p> <p>Database Overview: The plans and programs table provides 114 plans/programs to allow users to review information such as: if the program is for local, regional, state, or planning districts; document type; localities; and date of last update. The plan is to include this list on the VIMS Adapt VA website (adaptva.com). Feedback is being solicited from Subcommittee members and the Dewberry Team. This resource will be discussed further at the August meeting, however the project lead wanted to provide this early review opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q – Troy Hartley – This is a great resource, thank you. Do the funding sources require plans to be in place, or a prioritization of the projects identified in the plans? Is this the general link between the funding database, plans and projects? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura: Each project does link to a plan, and many sources offer extra points if they are linked, so this table identifies those links upfront. However, we do not know if all funding sources require this, for instance, NFWF does. Projects, funding, and plans are all connected and this table attempts to show those connections. ○ Troy – This plays into the strategy part. We need to ensure we have the required background steps in place to be competitive going forward. • Q – Lewis Lawrence – Did Wetlands Watch require projects on public or private property, or both? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura: Right now, this is geared mainly to public projects. The challenge is for private projects. Around 98 percent of all shoreline in VA is privately owned. This poses a big question on how to fund private projects. • Q – When minutes are posted will these documents/links be posted as well? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura: Yes, there is a recording of this meeting, and the minutes and documents are available as well. Everything will be posted to the Secretary of Natural Resources' website. Navigate to the Finance tab to access these files. Tip: Users must right click on documents to open them in a different tab. They do not open directly.
4.	Presentation - Peter D'Alema: VRA administered funds, Waterway Maintenance Fund, C-PACE,	Peter D'Alema provided a base-level review of select existing funding resources. Resiliency projects tend to be very expensive; they are not traditionally revenue generating projects – so they usually require incentives to local governments to implement. Knowing how funding sources work together can be valuable in helping to generate strategies going forward. This presentation will focus on the top three sources of state funds – DCR, DEQ, and VRA (Slide attachment). Projects may be

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	suggested resiliency funding improvements	<p>jointly funded so a general knowledge of the programs can assist with helping funding streams to work together.</p> <p>VRA – Program began in 1984 as an infrastructure funding authority, primarily for local governments. The program covers 19 general areas on nearly any topic except school construction.</p> <p>VA Pooled Financing Program (VPFP) – This program is only available to VA localities. This is not funded through a commercial bank. VRA will work with the public debt markets and borrow from bond issues and loan these funds to local governments. Localities are evaluated based on: security, ability to repay, etc. A term sheet/ commitment document is provided, then the locality can move forward with the loan if approved and desired.</p> <p>Additional Programs – VA Waterway Maintenance Fund – This program is managed by the Port Authority.</p> <p>C-PACE Funding – This funding for resilience improvements to commercial properties is attached through property liens and can be transferred with the property.</p> <p>Potential Recommendations – Multi state collaboration (e.g., Bay Restoration Project); Revolving loan funds specific to resiliency; Clean water revolving loan funds, Encourage private investment and partnership (e.g., VA Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission), Include resilience in evaluation criteria for funding programs/grants.</p> <p>See slide attachment for full Program information.</p>
5.	Presentation - Russ Baxter, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	<p>Russ Baxter provided an introduction to two available funding programs (slide attachment).</p> <p>Existing Program: Dam Safety & Flood Protection Assistance Fund, The program partners with VRA to administer this fund. It is a small amount of money, \$730,000, which is appropriated from the general assembly. The program is limited by Code on what can be given out, and the required match for the fund is 50%. The Grant Manual is updated annually to emphasize any new dam safety activities. Due to the financial limitations of the fund, e.g., one modification of a dam could wipe out the fund, the program focuses more on dam break inundation zones, floodplain management (local governments only), etc.</p> <p>New Program: Community Flood Preparedness Fund – First funded in 2020 through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, this fund is commonly called the “RGGI Money.” Approximately 50% of funds go to housing and community development for efficiency projects; 45% to VCFPF and 5% is divided between DEQ and DHCD for administrative purposes. Types of projects may include statewide and regional studies on rainfall or climate models for future projections. Reminder, this is not just for the Coastal Resilience Master Plan; this is a statewide fund. A draft Fund Manual was sent out for public comment and came back showing much interest in the program. It is jointly administered with VRA with an emphasis on low-income communities, and priority given to nature-based solutions. While certain aspects of existing funds can</p>

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		<p>also provide resilience benefits, DCR does not recommend changes to the existing programs at this time. Next fiscal year, the funds may be up to \$1 Million dollars, however, this has not been signed by the Governor yet.</p> <p>See slide attachment for full Program information.</p>
6.	Mike Crocker, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality/Water Division	<p>Mike Crocker provided a discussion of the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund and the four main DEQ funding programs: Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, Water Quality Improvement Fund for Point Sources, and the CSO Grant Program for combined sewer municipalities.</p> <p>SLAF was created in 2013 as a 1:1 matching grant for design and implementation of BMPs. Their main driver is water quality BMP's. One notable change incorporated for 2022 is allowing for grants above the 50% threshold for high fiscal-stress localities.</p> <p>The VA Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, in partnership with VRA, was created in 1987 as a perpetual funding source for local governments and other eligible applicants. This includes entities created by local governments (districts, commissions, etc.). While it started as a wastewater infrastructure program, eligible projects now include stormwater, living shorelines, agricultural BMPs, etc.</p> <p>Water Quality Improvement for Point Source Programs was created in 1997. Awards are generally given to local governments for nutrient removal. Eligible projects include nitrogen reduction tech, treatment plants in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and wastewater conveyance infrastructure to/from treatment plants in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.</p> <p>Other DEQ funding includes: Chesapeake Bay Grant Programs, Non-Point Source Section 319, and Hurricane Florence Funding.</p> <p>See slide attachment for full Program information.</p>
7.	Presentation - Kelly Meadows, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality/Water Division	<p>Kelly Meadows introduced Section 319 – The Clean Water Act, for non-point source programs. Additionally, Section 319H is the subsection that governs EPA awards to the states. DEQ is the lead agency for these programs. Around \$3.2 million dollars a year is granted from EPA, half dedicated to programming purposes, and half for on the ground implementation. This funding mostly provides BMPs in the watershed area. The program aims for a once-a-year award, and mostly serves soil and water districts. Eligible projects include agricultural, residential septic, pet waste, mining, and BMPs. Note: the program can pay for the connection to the sewer main, but it cannot pay for the main itself. Funds also cannot be used for permit activities such as MS4 or consent decrees.</p> <p>Non-Agricultural Non-Point Source Projects – This program is funded on a regular basis. It operates similarly to the Section 319 funding in the septic urban realm. Its Chesapeake Bay Watershed focus is on nutrients and sediments, whereas everywhere else the focus is on water quality improvement. Projects are evaluated on cost effectiveness and pollutant reductions.</p>

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		Hurricane Florence Funds – This is one-time EPA funding. Projects merge water quality and hazard mitigation planning. The program created an RFP for approved implementation watersheds and/or FEMA declared localities. See slide attachment for full Program information.
8.	Wrap up and Q&A	Elizabeth opened floor to questions from attendees. No Questions
9.	Public Comment Period	Elizabeth opened floor to comments from public attendees. No Comments Elizabeth asked for motion to conclude meeting: Peter moved, Lewis Lawrence seconded to close the meeting. Motion Passed. Meeting concluded at 11:36am.

Action Items			
#	Action Item	Owner (Organization)	Due Date
1.	Approve extending the May 2021 meeting from 90 minutes to two hours to accommodate the long list of topics and speakers.	All	TBD
2.	Send Elizabeth Andrews ideas for upcoming speakers or requested topics for future meetings.	All	TBD
3.	Review the Coastal Resilience Project Database and provide any comments/suggestions back to Laura McKay.	All	TBD
4.			

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Samonisky, Vision Planning and Consulting, at asamonisky@vision-pc.net.